

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HALIFA 00337 212019Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /078 W

-----023209 212023Z /46

R 212010Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1734 PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0337

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV CA US

SUBJECT: STUDY ON NEW BRUNSWICK JOINING US: FOLLOW-UP

REF: HALIFAX 0018

1. CONSULTING FIRM WHICH WAS COMMISSIONED LAST JANUARY BY GROUP OF NB BUSINESSMEN TO DO STUDY ON CONSEQUENCES OF NB JOINING US IN EVENT OF QUEBEC SECESSION MADE INTERIM REPORT OF FINDINGS JULY 12. IN BRIEF, FINDINGS WERE THAT SEVEN SOUTHWESTERN NB COUNTIES (WITH PREDOMINANTLY ANGLOPHONE POPULATION) WOULD JOIN THE U.S. AND REMAINING NB COUNTIES (PREDOMINANTLY FRANCOPHONE) WOULD REMAIN WITH CANADA AND FORM NEW PROVINCE WITH ACADIAN MAJORITY. OTHER FINDINGS DEALT WITH ECONOMIC REARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE PARTITIONED PROVINCE AND WITHIN BOTH QUEBEC AND MAINE WHICH WOULD PROBABLY COME TO PASS IN EVENT SUCH A BREAK-UP OF NB OCCURED.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, WORK ON THE STUDY IS NOW SUSPENDED, PARTLY FOR FINANCIAL REASONS, BUT WILL LIKELY RESUME WHEN "THERE IS A DEFINITE THREAT OF QUEBEC SEPARATION--FOR EXAMPLE, THE HOLDING OF A REFERENDUM."

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3. COMMENT: A CURIOUS ASPECT OF THE INTERIM REPORT OF THE CONSULTING FIRM IS THE LACK OF IMPACT IT SEEMS TO HAVE MADE ON THE PRESS AND PUBLIC. ALTHOUGH THE FIRM S SPOKESMAN DISCLOSED THE INTERIM FINDINGS OF THE STUDY ON JULY 12, IT WAS NOT UNTIL JULY 14 THAT THEY WERE PRINTED (AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE THREE) IN THE SAINT JOHN (NB)

"TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL". NO MEDIA EDITORIAL COMMENT OR FOLLOW-UP ON THE STORY HAS BEEN NOTED THUS FAR AND NO MENTION OF IT HAS BEEN MADE TO REPORTING OFFICER BY CANADIAN FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES.

4. THIS SEEMING LACK OF CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE STORY MIGHT BE VIEWED AS STEMMING EITHER FROM APATHY OR FROM A SECRET DESIRE FOR ANSCHLUSS. IN FACT, IT IS PROBABLY NEITHER. IT PROBABLY COMES FROM A BELIEF THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE WILL BE SERVED BY PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS UNTIL THE THREAT OF ATLANTIC CANADA S ISOLATION SEEMS MORE IMMINENT. END COMMENT.

5. POUCHING CLIPPING TO EMBASSY OTTAWA AND DEPT (EUR/CAN) MOORE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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